

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 5

MEMORIZE

Psalm 67:1-2 – May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

READ

Read Psalm 67:1-7.

This Psalm presents a prayer entreating God to bless His people so that they, in turn, could then be a blessing to the nations by making Him known among them. In what possible way could God bless His people more than to choose them for His own, to redeem them from their sins and transform them for His purposes? This is what He has done for us. If that's true, then we can be a blessing to the nations in no better way than to go to them, share the gospel with them and call them to respond in repentance and faith. Regardless of who we are and how long we have been following Christ, this is to be the driving force of our lives. We are to glorify God by making disciples of all nations.

Questions:

In what ways does God bless His people?

How does God blessing His people result in Him being made known among the nations of the world?

How can you be involved in making disciples of all nations?

Bottom Line: God blesses His people so they may make Him known among all peoples.

SING

God is gracious and generous with His blessings to His children. He provides for all of our needs, even those we were not aware we had. We can trust Him implicitly. This is why we chose "Trust You" by Aaron Keyes as our song this week.

You hold the world in your hands, God of mercy and might
Knew me before I was born, called me by name
How could I ever respond but to fall and adore
I live to know You more, Lord I will ever
Trust You Jesus

These words remind us that we have the most beautiful of blessings – "a God of mercy and might" who "called me by name". Let this reference to our salvation be an encouragement to extend this act of grace to others by taking them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, open your Bible to Psalm 67:1-2 and grab a flashlight.
- Read the verse to your preschooler and then turn out the lights. Use the flashlight as your only source of light in the dark room. (This will work best, of course, at night.)
- Explain to your preschooler that the shining light is like the blessing of God. Hold the flashlight above your head so that the light shines down on you. Now, hold the flashlight above your child's head. You need to sit very close to your child, allowing some of the light to shine on you too. Point out how the light is shining above their head and spills over on to you as well.
- Explain that as God shines His light and blessing on your child, it spills over on to you and you can then bless others.

- Remember what we talked about last week? Jesus wants us to tell everyone we meet about His love for us and share what He has taught us in the Bible. God sent Jesus from Heaven to Earth to save us from our sins/bad choices. He sent the Savior, Jesus, for everyone! Because God loves us, His children, He sent His only Son to save us and now we need to share this good news with other people.
- This is what He has done for us. If that's true, then we can be a blessing to the nations in no better way than to go to them and share the gospel with them.
- Conclude your family time in prayer.

Children

- Materials: A good movie or book that your children have not seen or read and a paper bag.
- Put the movie or book in a brown paper bag. Tell you child(ren) what you have in the bag, but don't tell them the title. Describe how it is really funny or sweet or memorable. Tell them that you wish could watch or read it.
- More than likely, your child(ren) will ask which movie or book it is and if you are going to let them watch or read it. They may ask why they can't watch or read it. Tell them that they can't because if they did, then they would enjoy it and maybe even tell their friends about it. This will probably confuse them because it does not make sense that you should not want them to enjoy or share the movie or book.
- Explain that just as we enjoy sharing things like movies and books that are special to us with friends and family, God enjoys blessing us with a relationship with Him and He wants us to tell others about Him so they can know Him and experience a new heart and life as well. Have a prayer time together.
- Finally, take the book or movie out of the bag and enjoy some fun family time.

Students

- Have your family members briefly summarize something about which they are both knowledgeable and passionate and like to talk about with others (i.e. sports, fashion, technology, food, books, etc.).
- Next, briefly have them summarize the message of Christianity. They may say something like: "the message of Christianity is that God loves me" or "the message of Christianity is that God loves me enough to send His Son Jesus to die for me." Christianity can seem overwhelming to define but we can conclude that it does have a few foundational elements.
- Make a list of various aspects of the Christian faith as your family says them aloud: loving others, telling others about Jesus, being forgiven, etc.
- Have your family take a look at your list. Isn't being a Christian a huge mix of blessings and responsibilities? Discuss.
- How do we keep from disconnecting the blessings of God from the desires of God? Read Psalm 67:1-2. According to these verses, what are two reasons for God being gracious to us, blessing us, and making His face shine upon us? What should they lead us to do?
- How do you typically respond to God's blessings in your life? What do they lead you to do? Are there ways you could be responding but aren't?
- End with time in prayer about how God blesses your family, asking that He uses those things to lead you to make Him known among all peoples.